

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 8, 2006

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 7, 2006

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 1, 2006

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 28, 2006

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 1451**

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**Introduced by Senator Kehoe**

February 23, 2006

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An act to add Section 8588.15 to the Government Code, relating to public safety.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1451, as amended, Kehoe. Emergency preparedness, ~~planning, and information.~~

Existing law provides for emergency services, as specified.

This bill would ~~provide that the Governor's Office of Emergency Services shall convene a permanent advisory committee, composed of representatives from specified groups, to make recommendations to the State Fire Marshal, the Legislature, and appropriate state and local agencies regarding preparedness, planning, procedures, and the provision of accessible information relating to the emergency evacuation of designated groups from public and private facilities and private residences during emergency or disaster situations. The bill would require the Director of the Office of Emergency Services to develop and host training workshops, to prepare and disseminate brochures and other relevant materials, and to seek research funding to develop new technologies and information systems relating to the evacuation of the designated groups from public and private facilities and private residences during emergency and disaster situations. The~~

~~bill would set forth legislative findings and declarations regarding the need for the bill and would state that it is the intent of the Legislature that the annual Budget Act shall appropriate federal homeland security funds and any other applicable federal funds to the Office of Emergency Services in order to implement the act require the Governor's Office of Emergency Services to ensure representation of the disability community on all pertinent Standardized Emergency Management System Specialist Committees, as specified. The bill would require the Director of Emergency Services to report to the Legislature, not later than January 1, 2009, recommendations regarding preparedness, planning, procedures and other items, as specified, to prepare and disseminate sample brochures on those matters, and to make those brochures available in accessible formats, as specified. The bill would require the director and the State Fire Marshal's office to seek research funds to assist in the development of new technologies and information systems that will assist in the evacuation of disabled persons, as specified. The bill would express the intent of the Legislature that funds be appropriated without regard to fiscal years from funds received from the federal Department of Homeland Security, as specified.~~

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) Recent emergencies, such as "9/11" and Hurricane Katrina,
- 4 have underscored the need for government to have in place
- 5 emergency disaster preparedness plans, procedures, and
- 6 accessible information.
- 7 (b) Specifically, these disasters have demonstrated that
- 8 emergency disaster preparedness plans, procedures, and
- 9 accessible information have not been developed to serve the
- 10 unique needs of those with physical, sensory, and cognitive
- 11 disabilities; California is among those states that lack procedures
- 12 to address the needs of those with disabilities, in evacuating
- 13 public and private facilities and private residences during an
- 14 emergency or disaster.

~~(e) The convening by the Governor's Office of Emergency Services of a permanent advisory committee to provide the necessary input to the State Fire Marshal, the Office of Emergency Services, other appropriate state and local agencies, and the Legislature regarding evacuation procedures, emergency disaster preparedness plans, and the provision of accessible information for the elderly, those who lack access to transportation, and those with disabilities during emergency and disaster situations will help solve this critical need.~~

*(c) California has a system in place to maintain and improve all phases of emergency management, known as the Standardized Emergency Management System. In order to ensure that the needs of people with disabilities are met during emergency and disaster situations, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services shall ensure representation of the disability community on all pertinent Standardized Emergency Management System Specialist Committees.*

SEC. 2. Section 8588.15 is added to the Government Code, to read:

~~8588.15. (a) The Governor's Office of Emergency Services, in consultation with the State Fire Marshal and other state, federal, and local agencies, shall convene a permanent advisory committee on or before January 1, 2008, to make recommendations regarding preparedness, planning, and procedures relating to the emergency evacuation of the groups designated in paragraphs (1) to (6), inclusive, of subdivision (b), from public and private facilities and private residences during emergency and disaster situations; the committee shall also make recommendations regarding the providing of accessible information regarding preparedness, planning, and procedures relating to the emergency evacuation of the groups designated in paragraphs (1) to (6), inclusive, of subdivision (b) from public and private facilities and private residences during emergency and disaster situations. Members of the advisory committee shall serve without compensation, but shall receive reimbursement for actual necessary travel expenses and the state-adopted per diem.~~

~~(b) The advisory committee shall include representatives from each of the following groups:~~

~~(1) Persons with physical disabilities.~~

~~(2) Persons who are blind or visually impaired.~~

1 ~~(3) Persons who are deaf or hard-of-hearing.~~

2 ~~(4) Persons with cognitive disabilities.~~

3 ~~(5) Persons with developmental disabilities.~~

4 ~~(6) Persons with learning disabilities.~~

5 ~~(7) Local government.~~

6 ~~(8) Appropriate state agencies.~~

7 ~~(9) Fire officials.~~

8 ~~(10) Researchers in emergency evacuation of groups specified~~  
9 ~~in this subdivision from public or private facilities and private~~  
10 ~~residences.~~

11 ~~(11) Building owners of public or private facilities.~~

12 ~~(e) (1) On or before January 1, 2009, and every two years~~  
13 ~~thereafter, the committee shall provide recommendations to the~~  
14 ~~Director of Emergency Services, the State Fire Marshal, the~~  
15 ~~Legislature, and appropriate state and local agencies regarding~~  
16 ~~preparedness, planning, procedures, and provision of accessible~~  
17 ~~information on the emergency evacuation of the groups~~  
18 ~~designated in paragraphs (1) to (6), inclusive, of subdivision (b)~~  
19 ~~from public and private facilities and private residences during~~  
20 ~~emergency or disaster situations.~~

21 ~~(2) The recommendations shall include, but shall not be~~  
22 ~~limited to, proposed legislative and regulatory actions, and~~  
23 ~~relevant research or technology design.~~

24 ~~(3) The recommendations developed by the advisory~~  
25 ~~committee shall be shared with the Governor's Office of~~  
26 ~~Emergency Services for inclusion into the State Emergency~~  
27 ~~Management System.~~

28 ~~(d) (1) The Director of Emergency Services, in consultation~~  
29 ~~with the advisory committee, shall develop and host training~~  
30 ~~workshops on the following subjects as they relate in particular~~  
31 ~~to the groups designated in paragraphs (1) to (6), inclusive, of~~  
32 ~~subdivision (b):~~

33 ~~(A) Emergency evacuation procedures for the effective and~~  
34 ~~safe evacuation from public and private facilities and private~~  
35 ~~residences.~~

36 ~~(B) Emergency or disaster preparedness or planning.~~

37 ~~(C) The provision of accessible information on preparedness,~~  
38 ~~planning, and procedures relating to the emergency evacuation of~~  
39 ~~the groups designated in paragraphs (1) to (6), inclusive, of~~

subdivision (b) from public and private facilities and private residences during emergency and disaster situations.

(2) The Director of Emergency Services shall prepare and disseminate brochures and other relevant materials on preparedness, planning, and procedures relating to the emergency evacuation of the groups designated in paragraphs (1) to (6), inclusive, of subdivision (b) from public and private facilities and private residences during emergency and disaster situations; the materials shall be available in accessible formats, including, but not limited to, Braille, large print, audio cassette tape, and electronic file.

(e) The Director of Emergency Services shall seek research funding to develop new technologies and information systems that will assist in the evacuation of the groups designated in paragraphs (1) to (6), inclusive, of subdivision (b) from public and private facilities and private residences during emergency and disaster situations.

(f) It is the intent of the Legislature that the annual Budget Act shall appropriate federal homeland security funds and any other applicable federal funds to the Governor's Office of Emergency Services in order to implement this section.

8588.15. (a) The Director of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services shall appoint representatives of the disabled community to serve on the evacuation, sheltering, communication, recovery, and other pertinent Standardized Emergency Management System committees, including one representative to the Technical Working Group. Representatives of the disabled community shall, to the extent practicable, be from the following groups:

(1) Persons who are blind or visually impaired.

(2) Persons with sensory or cognitive disabilities.

(3) Persons with physical disabilities.

(b) Within the Standardized Emergency Management System structure, the director shall ensure that the needs of the disability community are met by ensuring all committee recommendations regarding preparedness, planning, and procedures relating to emergencies include the needs of people with disabilities.

(c) The director shall produce a report containing recommendations regarding preparedness, planning, procedures, and provision of accessible information on emergency

1 *evacuations regarding the needs of people with disabilities and*  
2 *submit it to the Legislature and appropriate state and local*  
3 *agencies by January 1, 2009. The recommendations shall*  
4 *include, but not be limited to, proposed legislative and regulatory*  
5 *actions, relevant research or technology design, and training and*  
6 *exercise considerations.*

7 *(d) The director shall prepare and disseminate sample*  
8 *brochures and other relevant materials on preparedness,*  
9 *planning, and procedures relating to emergency evacuations that*  
10 *include the needs of the disability community, and shall work*  
11 *with nongovernmental associations and entities to make them*  
12 *available in accessible formats, including, but not limited to*  
13 *Braille, large print, and electronic media.*

14 *(e) The director and the State Fire Marshal's office shall seek*  
15 *research funding to assist in the development of new technologies*  
16 *and information systems that will assist in the evacuation of the*  
17 *groups designated in subdivision (a) during emergency and*  
18 *disaster situations.*

19 *(f) It is the intent of the Legislature for the purpose of*  
20 *implementing this section and to the extent permitted by federal*  
21 *law, that additional legislation be enacted so that funds shall be*  
22 *appropriated without regard to fiscal years from the Federal*  
23 *Trust Fund from funds received from the federal Department of*  
24 *Homeland Security for implementation of homeland security*  
25 *programs.*